

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

TERRI

March 28, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE WATSONVILLE WETLANDS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write this letter of support on behalf of the of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) for the proposal submitted by the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC) that will come before your board in May.

If funded, the WERC will provide a unique opportunity for students and members of the public to experience one of California's few remaining freshwater wetland areas. The laboratory/classroom will include state-of-the-art educational tools for applied science learning. A public visitor center will provide ample research exhibits and meeting space, including a research library that will house a regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and education. The adjacent greenhouse facility will allow for educational restoration projects, and the center will provide unique seminar and workshop opportunities for groups involved with water quality and habitat restoration projects in the area. This facility will enable collaborations with the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The MBNMS was designated by Congress in 1992 for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and public use. The MBNMS encompasses over 5,000 square miles of marine waters and is home to an enormous diversity of fishes, birds, mammals and other species. Recognizing this diversity, Congress and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, assigned MBNMS managers a mandate of ecosystem protection. Ecosystem health is dependent upon good water quality, which is susceptible to non-point source pollution from urban, rural and agricultural lands. In response to these threats, the MBNMS developed a Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) with five issue-orientated action plans. Many of the activities and programs that will be supported at the WERC would compliment the strategies contained in these plans.



Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

Given the unique features of the WERC and link to MBNMS activities, we urge your support for this proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (831) 420-1670.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COBURN
WQPP DIRECTOR



Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



State of California - The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

20 Lower Ragsdale Drive
Monterey, CA 93940



April 15, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is sent in support of a grant proposal which will come before your Board in May. The agenda includes a recommendation from your staff to fund a portion of the construction costs for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center. On behalf of the Department of Fish and Game, I would like to extend my full support for the WERC.

The WERC will provide a unique opportunity for students of all ages and members of the public to experience one of California's few remaining freshwater wetland areas. The laboratory/classroom will include state-of-the-art educational tools for applied science learning. A public visitor center will provide ample research exhibits and meeting space. The center's research library will house a regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and education. Additionally, the adjacent greenhouse facility will allow for educational restoration projects including planting native species on the adjoining Department of Fish and Game reserve.

Given the unique features of the WERC and the strong track record of the Board and staff overseeing the WERC programs, I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fully fund the proposal in question.

Feel free to contact me should you require further information. I can be reached by telephone at (831)649-2934, or by email at jdewald@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeannine DeWald".

Jeannine DeWald
Associate Biologist (Wildlife)

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APR 18 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



SECRETARY OF STATE
BRUCE McPHERSON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chairman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

As a former Assemblymember and State Senator who consistently worked to improve our educational system and protect our environment, I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to support the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC). I believe this center will be beneficial to both the children and schools and to the general public in appreciating our environment.

The WERC is a much-needed means of promoting sustainable management and stewardship of the Pajaro Valley Watershed. Community participation in wetlands education and research will foster a greater appreciation of the sloughs. The WERC will also provide science education and career opportunities to the underrepresented Watsonville community. In addition to providing environmental education opportunities, this integrated center will help preserve the agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region.

Some of the key highlights of the WERC include the following:

1. Inclusion of a wetlands lab dedicated to wetlands research with new state-of-the-art tools including computers, microscopes, and lab equipment. This will greatly expand opportunities for the young people of the Pajaro Valley to do needed research and restoration projects.
2. A public visitor center with research exhibits and meeting space.
3. Scheduling for all groups involved with environmental education in the Pajaro Valley.

In light of the WERC's unique features, I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide financial support for the WERC building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce McPherson".

BRUCE McPHERSON
Secretary of State

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

SAM FARR
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
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CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL AND
TOURISM CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0517

1221 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0517
(202) 225-2861

100 WEST ALisal
SALINAS, CA 93901
(831) 424-2229

701 OCEAN STREET
ROOM 318
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 429-1976

www.farr.house.gov

April 5, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnigh
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the grant application that will soon be submitted to the Coastal Conservancy by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. If awarded, the grant would provide funding for the construction of a Wetland Educational Resource Center (WERC) at the new Pajaro Valley High School in Watsonville.

The proposed WERC is closely aligned with the mission of the Coastal Conservancy. It works to create a living learning environment aimed at protecting and restoring the Watsonville slough system, the only intact freshwater slough system along the Northern California Coast. The WERC builds community values by creating a partnership between the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the City of Watsonville. Filling a void in the region, the WERC would also provide the first centralized facility for research, education, and docent training in the Pajaro Valley. This infrastructure would, in turn, lead to increased access to science education opportunities for this culturally diverse community.

In light of the WERC's distinctive proposed role in protecting and restoring both the Pajaro Valley Community and California's coastal freshwater wetlands, I encourage the Coastal Community to give this proposal all due consideration.

Sincerely,



SAM FARR
Member of Congress

SF/SC4

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-5843
(916) 445-8081 FAX



California State Senate ABEL MALDONADO FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

April 8, 2005

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Ste 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing in support of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch's application for grant funds in the amount of \$125,000 from the Coastal Conservancy for the building of the Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC).

The WERC will be located on the campus of the new Pajaro Valley High School in Watsonville, which is located within the 15th Senate District. This collaboration between the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the City of Watsonville will result in a 2,300 square foot facility, accessible to the public and to students.

Some impressive attributes of the WERC include:

- A wetlands lab dedicated to wetlands research with state-of-the-art equipment including computers, microscopes and lab equipment.
- A public visitor center with research exhibits and meeting space.
- A greenhouse adjacent to the classroom for educational restoration projects.

In light of the need for such a facility, I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide the necessary financial support. If I can provide any additional information to assist you in your decision, please let me know. Thank you, in advance, for your attention in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AM", written over a circular stamp.

ABEL MALDONADO
Senator, 15th District

AM:ep

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APR 12 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

100 PASEO DE SAN ANTONIO, SUITE 206
SAN JOSE, CA 95113
(408) 277-9461
(408) 277-9464 FAX

1356 MARSH STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 549-3784
(805) 549-3779 FAX

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0115

Assembly
California Legislature

April 15, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
c/o Kate Goodnight ^{TERINERVAUS}
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing to extend our support for a grant to Watsonville Wetlands Watch to help fund the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC).

As you know, the wetlands in this area are some of the few remaining coastal freshwater wetlands left in the state. The WERC provides a much-needed means of promoting sustainable management and stewardship of the Pajaro Valley Watershed. Community participation in wetlands education and research will foster a greater appreciation of the sloughs. In addition to providing environmental education opportunities, this integrated center will help preserve the agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region.

The existence of a wetlands lab dedicated to wetlands research with new state-of-the-art tools including computers, microscopes, and lab equipment will greatly expand opportunities for the young people of Pajaro Valley to do important research and restoration projects. Pajaro Valley High School students will use the WERC a great deal to augment their environmental curriculum. In fact, curriculum is being developed for water monitoring projects and restoration projects. A public visitor center with research exhibits, a meeting space and a centralized library of local wetlands information will enhance wetlands stewardship in the larger community.

This project has remarkable community support from the City of Watsonville, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, local businesses and individual donors. In light of the WERC's unique features, we encourage the Coastal Conservancy to give this program every consideration for funding.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD
Assemblymember, 27th District



SIMÓN SALINAS
Assemblymember, 28th District

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



Watershed Institute-Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project
California State University Monterey Bay
100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA 93955-8001
TEL: 831-582-3689 FAX: 831-582-3691

April 6, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is sent in support of a grant proposal which will come before your Board in May. The agenda includes a recommendation from your staff to fund a portion of the construction costs for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center. On behalf of the CSUMB Watershed Institute and Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project, I would like to extend my full support for the WERC.

The WERC will provide a unique opportunity for students of all ages and members of the public to experience one of California's few remaining freshwater wetland areas. The laboratory/classroom will include state-of-the-art educational tools for applied science learning. A public visitor center will provide ample research exhibits and meeting space. The center's research library will house a regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and education. Additionally, the adjacent greenhouse facility will allow for educational restoration projects including planting native species.

The WERC center will provide unique seminar and workshop opportunities for groups involved with water quality issues and native plant restoration in the Pajaro Valley region. It will allow for additional collaboration between research institutions such as the CSUMB Watershed Institute, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and UC Santa Cruz. We are particularly thrilled by the location of the WERC center on a school campus where it will introduce traditionally underrepresented students to stewardship and research opportunities.

Given the unique features of the WERC and the strong track record of the Board and staff overseeing the WERC programs, I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fully fund the proposal in question.

Feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

Laura Lee Lienk
Director, CSUMB Watershed Institute/Return of the Natives

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APR 08 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128
Capitola, California 95010

sccrcd@sccrcd.org

Ph: (831) 464-2950
Fx: (831) 475-3215

April 04, 2005

TERRI NEVINS

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District (SCCRCD), I would like to extend strong support for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC).

The WERC is a much-needed means of promoting sustainable management and stewardship of the Watsonville Wetlands and coastal watersheds. Community participation in wetlands education and research will foster a greater appreciation of the sloughs. In addition to providing environmental education opportunities, this integrated center will help preserve the agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region.

The SCCRCD recognizes and supports the fantastic volunteer efforts of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW). They have a long and successful track record of community involvement in wetlands education, including a strong docent program. The WWW track record, ability to collaborate and their commitment to wetlands education will help make the WERC a successful environmental education resource center for Santa Cruz County.

Under the Santa Cruz County Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP), the SCCRCD is working with Julia Davenport Communications to develop a watershed activity guide, *Watershed Cruzin' Watershed Cruzin'*. *Watershed Cruzin'* has many hands-on activities and the WERC location is perfect for implementing those activities. The IWRP Activity Guide has been developed in strong collaboration with teachers, scientists, resource professionals and WWW.

IWRP has identified a strong need for an education center that can be used for a lending library, a public visitor center, and meeting space for teacher training; program planning, curriculum development and environmental education events. The library will provide an opportunity to house a professional regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and watershed education. In addition, it will provide a secure central location for all WWW current educational equipment (binoculars, books, art materials, magnifying loops, etc.) and storage space for watershed education/restoration equipment.

There is a need for a watershed education center in Santa Cruz County and the Central Coast. The WERC is a unique and rare opportunity. The WWW has leveraged many volunteer hours and community resources to make this center a success. We strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to support this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 831-464-2950.

Sincerely,

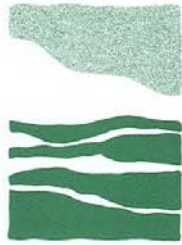
Karen Christensen, Executive Director of Programs
Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



**LAND
TRUST**
OF SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY

617 Water Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 429-6116
Fax (831) 429-1166
landtrust@ltscc.org
www.ltscc.org

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March 30, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Watsonville Wetlands

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to offer the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County's support for a grant proposal set to come before the Coastal Conservancy Board in May, seeking funding for a portion of the construction costs for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC).

The WERC is a much-needed means of promoting sustainable management and stewardship of the Pajaro Valley Watershed. Community participation in wetlands education and research will increase appreciation and understanding of the Watsonville sloughs. In addition to providing environmental education opportunities, this integrated learning center will help preserve the agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region.

The WERC will provide a unique opportunity for community members and students of all ages to experience one of California's few remaining freshwater wetland areas. The Pajaro Valley region currently lacks any centralized facility for research, education, and docent training. Moreover, the WERC will increase access to science education opportunities for this culturally diverse and largely under-represented community.

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County strongly encourages the Coastal Conservancy to support the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center proposal.

Sincerely,


Laura Perry
Executive Director

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Preserving our local wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, farmland, healthy forests, and clean watersheds

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



Fred Keeley
Treasurer-Tax Collector

County of Santa Cruz

TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

701 Ocean Street, Room 150
P.O. Box 1817 Santa Cruz, California 95061
Treasurer: (831) 454-2450
Tax Collector: (831) 454-2510
Central Collections: (831) 454-2292
FAX: (831) 454-2257

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chair
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to support the Watsonville Wetlands Watch grant request to help build the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC). There has been a remarkable and very successful community effort to raise money for this center. The Pajaro Valley School District, the City of Watsonville, The Wetlands Watch, local businesses and more than 100 community members have so far raised 90% of the needed funds. The Coastal Conservancy Grant of \$125,000 would complete the funding and, thus, make the building possible.

The WERC is the ideal way to introduce the local youth and community to the joys and importance of wetland stewardship. This is, I think, an excellent opportunity to develop a strong bond between the Latino population of the Watsonville/Pajaro communities, and the environmental stewardship community. Without this stewardship, we risk losing one of the very few remaining freshwater wetlands on the California Coast. In addition to providing environmental education opportunities, this integrated center will help preserve the agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region.

The center will have a visitor center and a wetlands lab dedicated to research and discoveries of the sloughs and their watershed. It will also have a greenhouse where restoration/education will take place. The local agricultural community has expressed great interest in helping students learn about growing native plants and restoring the slough system.

Certainly the WERC will foster appreciation and preservation of these rare freshwater wetlands for years to come. I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide full financial support for the program.

Sincerely,


FRED KEELEY
Treasurer
County of Santa Cruz

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MAR 28 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

April 8, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chair
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Watsonville Wetlands Watch grant request to help build our Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC) at our new Pajaro Valley High School. As you may be aware, our community has already raised a significant amount of the total funding, approximately 90%, to support this project. The Coastal Conservancy grant would complement our local efforts and help us complete this landmark community project.

The vision for WERC is to build a center that promotes sustainable management and stewardship of the Pajaro Valley Watershed among our young people. This Center will dedicate a lab equipped with state of the art technology for research on wetlands. Additionally, its activities will help promote public awareness about wetlands and greater understanding about their restoration and development. In short, the WERC will provide science education and knowledge of wetlands through research and career opportunities, while teaching our young people about preserving the agricultural, social and cultural history of our community.

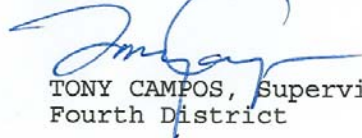
Pajaro Valley High School will serve a diverse community made up of over 70% Latino residents. This large community of culturally under-represented individuals will greatly benefit from this new educational institution and the resources provided through the WERC. Your support for this project would help reach this population, which is an important goal of your agency.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

April 8, 2005
Page 2

In short, I urge you to provide full financial support to help our community make this great project a reality. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely yours,



TONY CAMPOS, Supervisor
Fourth District

TC:lg

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

April 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

As a member of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, I would like to give my support for the grant to the Watsonville Wetlands Watch for the construction of the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC).

The Watsonville Educational Resource Center will provide unprecedented opportunities for the students and parents of Pajaro Valley to engage in hands-on science learning. Many of the people involved in the docent trainings and the school programs are bilingual. This provides a crucial link to the portion of the population who are not English speakers.

Establishing a connection to the land that sustains us helps to promote a community identity while also teaching environmental stewardship. Since this center will be available to all environmental community groups, it provides an opportunity to gather a wide spectrum of people into a uniting focus on the importance and beauty of our local environment. I am very pleased to have this resource center sited in the area that I represent.

The WERC will be an important asset to our community and the surrounding regions. It already has the commitment and the support of the City of Watsonville, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and many Santa Cruz County environmental organizations and agencies, as well as broad citizen support. The requested grant from the Coastal Conservancy will add the funding needed to complete this project.

I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide full financial support for the program.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

April 7, 2005

Page 2

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions about this important project.

Very truly yours,



ELLEN PIRIE, Supervisor
Second District

EP:pmp

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

CITY OF WATSONVILLE

"Opportunity through diversity; unity through cooperation"



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

215 Union Street
Second Floor
Fax 831.761.0736

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

215 Union Street
831.728.6006
CITY MANAGER
831.728.6011
CITY ATTORNEY
831.728.6013
CITY CLERK
831.728.6005
PERSONNEL
831.728.6012

CITY HALL OFFICES

250 Main Street

COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
831.728.6018

Fax 831.728.6173

FINANCE
831.728.6031
Fax 831.763.4066

PUBLIC WORKS &
UTILITIES
831.728.6049

Fax 831.728.4065

PURCHASING
831.728.6029
Fax 831.763.4066

REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

831.728.6014
Fax 831.763.4114

AIRPORT
100 Aviation Way
831.728.6075
Fax 831.763.4058

FIRE
115 Second Street
831.728.6060
Fax 831.763.4054

LIBRARY
310 Union Street
831.728.6040
Fax 831.763.4015

PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

30 Maple Avenue
831.728.6081
Fax 831.763.4078

April 1, 2005

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:


This letter is sent in support of a grant proposal that will be presented to your Board in May. The agenda item includes a recommendation from your staff to provide funding that will be used for construction of a Wetland Educational Resource Center (WERC) at the new Pajaro Valley High School in Watsonville.

The WERC is closely aligned with the mission of the Coastal Conservancy, as it will create a learning environment aimed at protecting and restoring the Watsonville slough system. The WERC is unique in several ways. It has developed as a partnership between the Watsonville Wetlands Watch, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and the City of Watsonville. Additionally, the Watsonville sloughs represent the only intact freshwater slough system along the Northern California Coast, and the Pajaro Valley region currently lacks any centralized facility for wetland research and education. Finally, through partnerships with area institutions, the WERC will increase access to science education and career opportunities for this culturally diverse and underrepresented community.

Given the unique role of the WERC in providing educational opportunities and increasing long-term sustainability in the Watsonville community, I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide full support for the proposal.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 831.768.3004.

Sincerely,


Ana Ventura Phares
Mayor

P.O. BOX 50000 WATSONVILLE, CA 95077-5000

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Catherine Hatch, Assistant Superintendent

Central Zone Administrator

Ph#786-2100, Ext. 208/Fax# 728-6255

March 28, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, I enthusiastically extend support for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC) which will be located on the site of our new Pajaro Valley High School. The staff at the new high school has, over the past year, begun development of an environmentally focused curriculum which integrates wetlands and slough science into all areas of study. Together with its partners, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, the City of Watsonville and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the administration and staff of the school have taken on the development of a truly unique educational program that will enhance the care and understanding of the environment for generations to come.

The WERC is a much-needed means of promoting sustainable management and stewardship of the Pajaro Valley Watershed. Community participation in wetlands education and research will foster a greater appreciation of the sloughs. In addition to providing environmental opportunities, this integrated center will help preserve the agricultural, social and cultural history of the region.

Some of the key highlights of the WERC include the following:

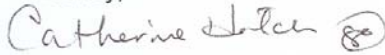
- Inclusion of a wetlands lab dedicated to wetlands research with new state of the art tools including computers, microscopes and lab equipment. This will greatly expand opportunities for the young people of Pajaro Valley to do needed research and restoration projects. Staff at the high school, along with students, has already begun preliminary studies, planting and field trips to the site.
- A greenhouse adjacent to the classroom for educational restoration projects including planting of native species.
- A library providing the opportunity to house a professional regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and education.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

- Space for curricular planning and ongoing curriculum development
- Scheduling for all groups, including elementary, middle, high school and college age students and community members involved with environmental education in the Pajaro Valley.

In light of the WERC's unique features and possibilities for enriching local environmental research and protection, we strongly support the Coastal Conservancy in providing financial support for the program. Please feel free to contact me at (831) 786-2100, Ext. 208 if I can provide any additional information as to the project.

Sincerely,



Catherine Hatch
Assistant Superintendent, Central Zone
Pajaro Valley Unified School District

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MAR 29 2005
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

Julia Davenport Communications
221 Seaborg Place
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831/425-5643 • juliad@cruzio.com

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

28 March 2005

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I would like to extend my support for the programs and facilities of the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC).

As an environmental educator, I have seen first-hand the need for a community supported facility such as WERC and am thrilled to see it come to fruition in Santa Cruz County. Because of WERC's beginnings as a dream of the grass roots efforts of the community based Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW), the needs and bilingual expertise found in the education community of the Pajaro Valley, and the support of the Pajaro Valley Water District, its programs will contribute a vital resource that reaches into the community through these diverse entry points.

In addition, with its unique location on the Watsonville Sloughs coupled with the historically strong WWW docent program, I have no doubts that WERC will be the ultimate environmental education outreach center on the central coast.

In developing the Coastal Commission's *Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds* state-wide science activity guide, many teachers told me of their needs for easily accessible, place-based activities where students can have access to local natural habitats for hands-on experiences. My current project with the Santa Cruz County Integrated Watershed Restoration Program's watershed activity guide, *Watershed Cruzin'* is based on fulfilling this need. I look forward to working with the staff at WERC to integrate many of the hands-on activities in *Watershed Cruzin'* at WERC's location on the Watsonville sloughs, which provide an excellent opportunity for many of the field-based natural history, science, and restoration activities in the guide. WWW members have also been a valuable resource throughout the development of *Watershed Cruzin'*.

Community participation in wetlands education and research will foster a greater appreciation of the wetlands, and will help educate students and the public about the

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region. I look forward to working with WERC in many endeavors, and am particularly excited about these opportunities available at WERC:

- a wetlands lab dedicated to wetlands research with computers, microscopes, and lab equipment for students county-wide to have experience with research and restoration projects
- a public visitor center with research exhibits and meeting space.
- a greenhouse for restoration projects and planting native species.
- a library to house a professional regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and education, in addition to a secure central location for all WWW educational resource equipment for teachers to check out (binoculars, books, art materials, magnifying loops, etc.).
- scheduling for groups involved with environmental education in Santa Cruz County.

In light of the WERC's strengths, I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide financial support for the program.

Sincerely,



Julia Davenport

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APR 05 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Conserving and Restoring Elkhorn Slough and its Watershed

Douglas Bosco, Chairman

c/o Kate Goodnight

Coastal Conservancy

1330 Broadway, Suite 1100

Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is sent in support of a grant proposal which will come before your Board in May. The agenda includes a recommendation from your staff to fund a portion of the construction costs for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center. On behalf of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, I would like to extend my full support for the Center.

The Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center is a much-needed means of promoting sustainable management and stewardship of the Pajaro Valley Watershed. Community participation in wetlands education and research will foster a greater appreciation of the Watsonville sloughs. In addition to providing environmental education opportunities, this integrated learning center will help preserve the agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region.

The Center will provide a unique opportunity for students of all ages and members of the public to experience one of California's few remaining coastal freshwater wetland areas. The laboratory/classroom will include state-of-the-art educational tools. A public visitor center will provide ample research exhibits and meeting space. The center's research library will house a regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and education. Additionally, the adjacent greenhouse facility will allow for educational restoration projects including planting native species.

As a partnership effort, the Wetlands Center will support a broad constituency. It will provide opportunities for scheduling seminars and workshops for all groups involved with environmental education in the Pajaro Valley region.

In light of these unique features and my positive ongoing experience working with the Board and staff supporting the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center, I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fully support the proposal in question.

Sincerely,

Mark Silberstein, Executive Director

Post Office Box 267 • Moss Landing • California • 95039

Tel: (831) 728-5939 • Fax: (831) 728-1056

Elkhorn Slough Foundation office is located on the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

1700 Elkhorn Road • Watsonville • 95076

www.elkhornslough.org

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APR 07 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



Our Vision:
Provide stewardship for the "last mile" of Watsonville Slough by preserving native habitat and wildlife, collaborating with the neighboring community and educating all who visit.
www.friendsofpajarodunes.org

April 7, 2005

The Honorable Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is sent in support of a grant proposal which will come before your Board in May. The agenda includes a recommendation from your staff to fund a portion of the construction costs for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC).

Friends of Pajaro Dunes is a non-profit organization dedicated to stewardship of the "last mile" of the Watsonville Slough. We share many of the same native habitat educational and restoration goals with the WERC.

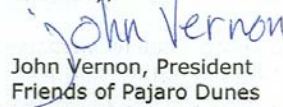
Specifically, the WERC plans to provide:

- A public visitor center
- A greenhouse for growing native plant species for restoration work
- A wetlands laboratory where young people of Pajaro Valley can have "hands on" experiences to better understand and appreciate the unique wetlands environment

Friends of Pajaro Dunes sees the WERC as a much-needed central resource on wetlands education which will be available to the entire community. In direct support of these efforts, our organization along with a matching grant from Hewlett Packard Company recently donated new computer equipment to the WERC.

The Friends of Pajaro Dunes Board of Directors strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fully support the WERC proposal.

Sincerely,


John Vernon, President
Friends of Pajaro Dunes
2661 Beach Road, Bldg. 1
Watsonville, CA 95076
831-761-1867

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APR 07 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support

TERRI NEVINS

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
C/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

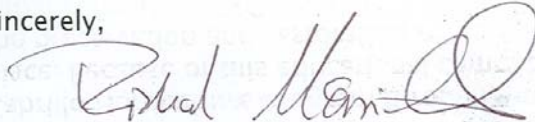
Dear Mr. Bosco:

As the founder and former director of the Horticultural Department at Cabrillo College, I would like to give my support for the grant to the Watsonville Wetlands Watch for the construction of the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC). I am currently consulting with the Watsonville Wetlands Watch on the greenhouse and shade structure for the WERC.

Cabrillo College has a strong and vital horticultural program that is well integrated into the Monterey Bay agricultural and horticultural community. High school students in the WERC program will have new career opportunities readily available to them by stepping into the Cabrillo Horticulture program through articulation agreements already in place. Because of this educational commitment, plus the commitment to the preservation and restoration of coastal lands, there has been wide support for the WERC from the local horticultural and agricultural communities.

Educating our children about their important connection to the land helps to promote a community identity while also teaching practical skills and environmental stewardship. And because coastal wetlands are among the most diverse and, at the same time, endangered of California's ecosystems, the WERC takes on a very special role in environmental education. The grant funds requested from the Coastal Conservancy will add the support needed to complete this project. I strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide full financial support for this unique and much needed educational program.

Sincerely,



Richard Merrill, Professor Emeritus
Dept. Horticulture, Cabrillo College

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APR 6 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



FRIENDS OF MOSS LANDING
MARINE LABORATORIES

April 15, 2004

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of Friends of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML), I would like to extend support for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center (WERC) in their efforts to promote sustainable management and stewardship for the Pajaro Valley Watershed. The Pajaro Valley Watershed is a unique resource along our coast and because of the dwindling nature of sloughs, it is essential that we provide educational opportunities such as the one proposed by WERC to our children and their schools to promote and preserve the agricultural, social, and cultural history of the region.

As a research institution, MLML believes that scientific research is essential to the preservation of these resources. The WERC, with their new state-of-the-art tools including computers, microscopes, and lab equipment will greatly expand opportunities for the young people of Pajaro Valley to do research and restoration projects. A regional library to help to provide for books and archives on wetland ecology and education will be an invaluable resource for our area as well.

We strongly encourage the Coastal Conservancy to provide full financial support for the program.

Sincerely,

Lisa Uttal
Executive Director

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APR 19 2005

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Exhibit 6: Letters of Support



SEYMOUR MARINE DISCOVERY CENTER
LONG MARINE LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
100 SHAFFER ROAD | SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060
831/459-3800 | 831/459-1221 FAX
SEYMOURCENTER.UCSC.EDU

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
c/o Kate Goodnight
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

This letter is sent in support of a grant proposal that will come before your Board in May. The agenda includes a recommendation from your staff to fund a portion of the construction costs for the Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center. On behalf of the Seymour Marine Discovery Center at UCSC's Long Marine Laboratory, I would like to extend my support for the center being proposed.

The new center will provide a unique opportunity for students of all ages and members of the public to experience one of California's few remaining freshwater wetland areas. The laboratory/classroom will include state-of-the-art educational tools for applied science learning. A public visitor center will provide ample research exhibits and meeting space. The center's research library will house a regional collection of books and archives on wetland ecology and education. Additionally, the adjacent greenhouse facility will allow for educational restoration projects including native species restoration.

The Watsonville Wetlands Educational Resource Center will provide seminar and workshop opportunities for groups engaged in environmental education projects in the area. I look forward to collaboration opportunities with this new center and the Seymour Marine Discovery Center.

I encourage the Coastal Conservancy to fund this proposal. Thank you for your time. Please don't hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julie Barrett Heffington".

Julie Barrett Heffington
Director, Seymour Center

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APR 14 2005

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.